

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 CU-04 SNM-02

DEAE-00 EB-11 SSO-00 /146 W
----- 012739

R 130800Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 579

INFO DOD OSD(ISA) WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH, LA, CB

SUBJECT: AIR AMERICA

1. AIR AMERICA CONTINUES TO SURFACE AS SUBJECT OF CRITICISM OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THAILAND. REPUTATION AS A "CIA TOOL" HAS RESULTED IN PUBLIC LINKING OF AIR AMERICA TO RECENT CIA LETTER INCIDENT. IN UDORN, JANUARY STRIKE OF AIR AMERICA WORKERS, ALTHOUGH SETTLED SATISFACTORILY, ATTRACTED COMMUNITY ATTENTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF IRREGULARITY IN AIR AMERICA OPERATIONS.

2. STUDENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN PURSUING THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS OF AIR AMERICA. ACCORDING TO RTG SUPREME COMMAND SOURCES, STUDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT RTG EXERCISES EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER AIR AMERICA. THEY ALLEGE THAT CIA IS USING AIR AMERICA TO SMUGGLE ARMS AND NARCOTICS INTO THAILAND, WITH INTENTION OF SUBVERTING RTG. THEY ALSO CLAIM THAT AIR AMERICA HAS RESISTED EFFORTS BY THAI CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION TO EXERCISE NORMAL CONTROLS AT PORTS OF ENTRY. PRESS HAS ALSO PUBLICIZED CLAIM FROM DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION THAT AIR AMERICA OPERATIONS WERE NEVER PROPERLY AUTHORIZED BY
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RTG.

3. GENERAL KRIANGSAK OF SUPREME COMMAND HAS STRESSED RTG CONCERN THAT CRITICISM WILL GET OUT OF CONTROL UNLESS SATISFACTORY REPLIES CAN BE GIVEN TO PRESS, PUBLIC AND STUDENT CRITICS. WE HAVE PROVIDED UNCLASSIFIED BACKGROUND BRIEFING PAPER AND OFFERED TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AS REQUIRED; TO DATE PRESSURE ON RTG BANGKOK AGENCIES HAS FORTUNATELY NOT ESCALATED, AND ISSUE HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN UP IN PARLIAMENT.

4. LAST MONTH, FORSEEING INCREASING INTEREST IN AIR AMERICA AS PRESSURE POINT AGAINST UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AMBASSADOR ESTABLISHED INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, WHICH IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH VIENTIANE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUING ESSENTIAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES, NOW PROVIDED BY AIR AMERICA FROM BASES IN THAILAND, BEYOND FY 74. WE EXPECT TO FORWARD COORDINATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION WHORTLY.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, AIRLINES, CONTRACTS, LABOR STRIKES, STUDENT GROUPS, ARMS SMUGGLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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